

Abergele Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1968

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH

FREDERICK P. PEACH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

which includes the

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SENIOR
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

DAVID T. OWEN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.



Housing and Health Committee 1968-69

Councillor Mrs. M. LYONS, C.C. (Chairman).

Councillor D. E. JONES (Vice-Chairman).

Councillors :

Mrs. A. Hartley	J. McGuinness (Elected)
Mrs. M. A. Orchison	H. J. Manifold (Resigned)
Mrs. W. M. Owen	K. B. Noon
A. J. Easy (Resigned)	J. T. Parry
T. E. Edwards	W. G. Peck
O. A. Hughes	M. Pritchard
V. Hughes	W. J. Rigby (Elected)
A. E. Jones	W. H. Smith
H. H. Jones	B. I. Whittaker
P. I. Jones	T. Williams
R. Lawton	

Staff of the Health Department

Medical Officer of Health :

FREDERICK P. PEACH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector :

FRANK EVANS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Cert. Meat and Other Foods.

Cert. Smoke Inspection.

Additional Public Health Inspector :

DAVID T. OWEN, M.A.P.H.I.

Cert. Meat and Other Foods.

Clerk/Typist : Mrs. M. Y. OWEN.

Refuse Supervisory Foreman : C. PARKER (from 29/10/68).

Rodent Operator : R. S. JONES.

The Civic Centre,
Colwyn Bay.

to the Chairman and Members,
Health Committee of Abergele U.D.C.
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me pleasure to present to you my report on the health of the Urban District of Abergele for the year 1968.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population as at mid-1968 is 11,320, which is an increase of 800 over the estimated population of the mid-year 1967. The number of live births occurring in the district during the year was 181, whilst the number of deaths registered was 209. Therefore there is a natural decrease in the population of 28, which, if the Registrar's estimate of the population is accepted, would show that 828 persons migrated into the area during the year. The birth rate at 30.08 shows an increase compared with the previous year, when it was calculated at 26.7, whilst the death rate at 8.88 is higher than when calculated during 1967, when it stood at 7.53. The infant mortality rate at 16.6 is significantly higher than in 1967, when it was 6.0. This is the highest rate recorded since 1964 and represents three deaths of children under 1 year of age. In fact all three deaths occurred under the age of 4 weeks. During 1967 there was only one death in this age group. However, the perinatal mortality rate at 33 is lower than during 1967, when it stood at 57.1.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH.

Infectious Disease Control.

Registration of Visitors to Caravan Sites and Holiday Camps.

During the year a check was made on the effectiveness of the registration of all visitors to caravan sites initiated during 1967, the scheme at present being operated by a voluntary agreement of the site owners in the district. Although no uniform system of registration is practised throughout the district, it was found that camp owners had devised a system to fit in with their present administrative arrangements at the individual camps and that for the most part the registration of visitors was being pursued conscientiously by the management at all the main sites and during the first year of its operation in excess of 75% of all visitors to the caravan sites in the area had duly registered. This, I believe, is a reasonably good response, but obviously 100% registration must be aimed at and I was satisfied that the majority of camp owners now appreciate the benefits of such registration and that there is every indication that they will continue in their efforts.

Housing.

For the second year the highest rate of building of houses and bungalows by private enterprise took place in the Urban District during the year. In all, 280 houses and bungalows were completed by private builders and, in addition, 22 Council units were erected. In my previous report I referred to the inherent problems to the Health Department consequent upon the rapid development which is at present taking place in the district, particularly in respect of main drainage, sewage disposal and refuse collection.

I am pleased to report on the progress that is being made throughout the district in respect of drainage and sewerage schemes. The extension of the Llanddulas Sewerage Scheme is now well under way and is due to be completed at the time of the preparation of this report. This will considerably improve the amenities in the Rhyd-y-Foel and Llanddulas district. The Ffynnon-y-Ddol Scheme extending from Pensarn through Towyn to Kinmel Bay, which at the time of writing is under construction, will remove one of the main sources of concern in this area by providing an adequate surface water drainage scheme, a necessary operation for the extension of adequate sewerage facilities to parts of Towyn and Kinmel Bay, which hitherto has presented many problems due to the lack of these essential services. The village of St. George at present lacks a sewerage system and it would be remiss of me if I did not draw the attention of the Council to the need for an adequate scheme to be put into operation at the earliest possible moment.

Public Conveniences.

The condition of the public conveniences within the district leaves a lot to be desired and although a certain amount of responsibility for this must fall upon certain members of the public who select such establishments for wanton acts of vandalism, I would ask the Council to give consideration to a phased programme of renovation and in some cases renewal of the public toilets throughout the district and providing the necessary amenities such as washing facilities and incorporating the newer, more vandal-proof, materials.

It is with regret that I must refer to the death of Mr. Frank Evans, Senior Public Health Inspector, who served this Committee diligently and faithfully for more than 20 years, during which time his contribution to the maintenance of the health of the community is his lasting memorial.

I express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Committee for their assistance during the year, and also to Mr. Owen and the other officers of the Council for their assistance and support during the year.

Yours sincerely,

F. P. PEACH,

Medical Officer of Health.

Vital Statistics

Area (in acres) of Urban District	7965
Population—	
Census (1951)	7539
Census (1961)	7996
Registrar-General's Estimate (mid-1968)	11320
Number of Inhabited Houses	4336
Rateable Value	£532,079
Sum represented by a penny rate	£2,120
Houses built by the Council in 1968	22
Houses built by private enterprise in 1968	280

LIVE BIRTHS—

	Male	Female	Total
Total	95	86	181
Legitimate	88	76	164
Illegitimate	7	10	17

STILL-BIRTHS	0	3	3
---------------------	---	---	---

DEATHS OF INFANTS (under 1 year)—

Total	1	2	3
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	0	0	0

DEATHS OF INFANTS (under 4 weeks)—

Total	1	2	3
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	0	0	0

DEATHS OF INFANTS (under 1 week) ..	1	2	3
-------------------------------------	---	---	---

DEATHS	115	94	209
---------------	-----	----	-----

RATES—

Birth Rate per 1,000 population—

(a) Crude	16.0
(b) Corrected	30.08

Comparability figure for births	1.88
--	------

Live Births — Ratio of local adjusted birth rate to national rate	1.78
--	------

Illegitimate Birth Rate (per cent of live births)	9.3
--	-----

Still-birth rate (per 1,000 total births and still-births)	16.3
---	------

(5)

Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 births)—	
Legitimate	16.6
Illegitimate	Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 births)	
	16.0
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 births)	
	16.0
Peri-natal Mortality Rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still-births)	
	33
Maternal Mortality Rate	Nil
Death Rate—	
(a) Crude	18.5
(b) Corrected	8.88
Comparability factor for deaths	0.48
Ratio of local adjusted death rate to national rate ...	0.75

The following table shows the vital statistics for the past eight years :—

	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Population	7920	7930	8200	9000	9800	10210	10520	11320
Births	104	136	130	141	152	164	166	181
Birth Rate	13.3	17.1	15.4	15.6	15.5	16.06	15.8	16.0
Still-births	4	2	3	1	Nil	5	9	3
Still-birth rate	*37	15.2	22.5	7.1	Nil	29.5	51.5	16.3
Infant Deaths	3	5	3	3	2	2	1	3
Infant Mortality Rate	28.8	36.7	23	21.2	13.1	6.09	6.0	16.6
Deaths	114	143	145	149	173	175	149	209
Death Rate	14.4	18.0	17.8	16.6	17.6	17.1	14.2	18.5

* Calculated as still-births per 1,000 births and still-births.

The ages at which death occurred were :—

Years	Male	Female	Total
Under 4 weeks	1	1	2
4 weeks and under 1 year ...	0	0	0
1—4	0	1	1
5—14	0	0	0
15—24	1	1	2
25—34	1	1	2
35—44	1	1	2
45—54	2	4	6
55—64	18	18	36
65—74	44	19	63
75 and over	44	50	94
	114	96	208

Cause of Death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	Ages								
					1 year	5 years	15 years	25 years	35 years	45 years	55 years	65 years	75 years and over
Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	M	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	4	3
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm — Lung, Bronchus ...	M	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	3
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm — Breast	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	4	—	—
Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	M	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	5	—
	F	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	4	4	—
Diabetes Mellitus	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc. ...	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hypertensive Disease	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
Ischaemic Heart Disease	M	30	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	9	15	5	—
	F	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	17	—
Other forms of Heart Disease	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
Cerebrovascular Disease	M	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	10	—
	F	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	3	7	—
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—
	F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—
Influenza	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—
	F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	—
Bronchitis and Emphysema	M	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	7	3	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Peptic Ulcer	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cirrhosis of Liver	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases of Digestive System	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System ...	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Other causes of Perinatal Mortality	M	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
All other Accidents	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Total all causes	M	115	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	3	18	47
	F	94	2	—	1	—	—	1	1	4	18	20	47
Combined Total		209											

Of the deaths of children of school age, only one occurred, which was due to accidental causes. There are now no specific causes of death for children within this age group, the largest single cause being due to accident. The number of deaths from carcinoma of the lung or bronchus totalled 10 during the year, which is the same number of deaths occurring from this cause as in 1967. Deaths from coronary thrombosis accounted for the largest number of deaths during the year. This is an increase over the previous year, when 31 persons died from this condition. Of the total of 209 deaths occurring in the district during the year, 103 persons died from diseases of the heart and circulatory system.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area

1. BACTERIAL :

Again, I am indebted to Dr. Kingsley Smith and his staff at the Public Health Laboratory, Conway, for the valuable assistance given to me during the year.

The following prophylactic and therapeutic agents are available through the Public Health Laboratory Service :

German Measles : Gamma Globulin obtainable from the Public Health Laboratory, Bryn Hyfryd, Conway (Tel. Conway 2478).

Typhus vaccine, rabies vaccine and anthrax vaccine, for prophylactic use only, held at the Public Health Laboratory, 126 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool (Tel. Royal 3636).

Anthrax vaccine for therapeutic use is held at the Public Health Laboratory, Liverpool.

Anthrax anti-serum is held at the C. & A. Hospital, Bangor (Tel. Bangor 3321) and the Maelor General Hospital, Wrexham (Tel. Wrexham 3512).

Snake anti-venom and also Botulinum anti-serum are held at the C. & A. Hospital, Bangor, and the Maelor General Hospital, Wrexham.

Anti-vaccine for tropical snakes is held at the Dispensary, Royal South Hants., and Southampton Hospital, Southampton (Tel. Southampton 26211)—24-hour service.

Anti-yellow fever vaccine is obtainable at the Regional Blood Transfusion Centre, Hatton Garden, Liverpool (Tel. Central 8433) and inoculations are given by appointment only.

Anti-cholera, anti-tetanus and whooping cough vaccine must be obtained through the usual trade channels.

Smallpox vaccine lymph is obtainable from the Health Department, Civic Centre, Colwyn Bay (Tel. Colwyn Bay 55271).

2. PATHOLOGICAL AND BIOCHEMICAL :

Material for pathological examination and biochemical analysis is dealt with at the Pathological and Bacteriological Department at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Rhyl, and there is an excellent liaison between this service and the Health Department in respect of matters which may concern the public health of the district.

3. WATER :

(a) *Bacteriological* :

Bacteriological examination of water samples is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, Conway, and during the year 29 samples were submitted by the Public Health Inspector, which were all found to be free from pathological organisms and classified as excellent.

(b) *Chemical* :

Samples for chemical analysis of water are submitted to the Public Analyst. The purpose of this examination is not only to assess whether any poisonous metals are present or absent, but also to give information as to the type of water, the gathering ground, the state of the mains, and the plumbo-solvency of the water, etc.

4. MILK AND OTHER FOODS :

The examination of milk before it reaches the consumer is primarily the responsibility of the County Public Health Inspector, but periodic milk samples are taken from consumers and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Conway, by the Public Health Inspectors.

The Food and Drugs Inspector to the Denbighshire County Council takes samples of milk and has them tested for adulteration.

5. FOOD AND DRUGS :

I am grateful to Mr. D. Hugh Owens, Chief Inspector under the Food and Drugs Act for Denbighshire, for the following report :

Particulars of samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act, in the ABERGELE URBAN DISTRICT, during the year ended 31st December, 1968 :

Article	No. taken	Not Genuine, or	
		Genuine	Substandard
MILK	24	24	—
Butter	1	1	—
Margarine	1	1	—
Lard	1	1	—
Sausage	1	1	—
Meat Paste	1	1	—
Sausage Rolls	1	1	—
Creamed Rice	1	1	—
Ice Cream	1	1	—
Ice Lollies	1	1	—
Double Cream	1	1	—
Whiskey	1	1	—
Lemon Flavouring	1	1	—
Total	36	36	—

As will be observed from the above table, 24 samples of milk and 12 samples of other foods, etc., were taken in the Abergele Urban District during the year. All the samples submitted were certified by the Public Analyst to be genuine and free from all prohibited preservatives, colouring matter, etc. In addition to the usual tests for quality, the Analyst carried out further tests for the presence of antibiotics on all samples of farm bottled milk. All such seven tests carried out during the year proved negative.

Apart from samples submitted to the Public Analyst, a further 26 samples of milk taken from schools, homes, vending machines, etc. were taken and tested in the department. The results were satisfactory in each instance.

(Signed) D. HUGH OWENS,

Chief Inspector, County of Denbigh.

Ruthin Road,
Wrexham.

2nd June, 1969.

All milk sold in vending machines is "raw milk," i.e., milk not subjected to the pasteurisation process, and it is worthy of note that this fact is not indicated on such machines sited for public consumption. I feel that this is an omission in that the public might be unaware that they have purchased raw milk from such a machine until the carton is actually delivered to them.

AMBULANCE SERVICE :

The Ambulance Service in Abergele is administered by the Denbighshire County Council from the Area Control based at the

Civic Centre, Colwyn Bay, and, as in previous years, the service is manned by full-time drivers supplemented by the Abergele Voluntary Ambulance Corps.

During the year 5631 patients were conveyed by the Ambulance Service, covering a total of 58, 903 miles. 83 road traffic accidents were dealt with within the district during the year.

NURSING IN THE HOME :

Two District Nurses reside in the area and attend on, and treat, sick persons at the request of the family doctor.

Home Helps are provided by the County Council to assist in domestic work during periods of emergency when there is sickness in the home. Applications for the assistance of a Home Help should be sent to the office of the Medical Officer of Health, Civic Centre, Colwyn Bay.

CLINICS :

Clinics are provided by the County Council. They are held as follows :—

1. *Child Welfare :*

Market Street, Abergele : THURSDAY, at 2 p.m. each week.

Youth Club, Llanddulas : FIRST MONDAY each month, at 2 p.m.

Merchandise Hall, Kinmel Bay : FIRST WEDNESDAY in each month, at 2 p.m.

2. *Ophthalmic :*

As required : Appointments are made for an Ophthalmic Surgeon to attend at Nant-y-Glyn Clinic, Colwyn Bay.

3. *Dental :*

By appointment at Market Street, Abergele.

4. *Diseases of the Chest :*

Rhyl (ordinary clinic) : Fridays, 9 a.m., Royal Alexandra Hospital.

Rhyl (B.C.G. clinic) : Mondays, 10 a.m., Royal Alexandra Hospital.

Colwyn Bay : At the West Denbighshire Hospital, Hesketh Road, 1st, 2nd and 4th Thursday each month, at 2 p.m.

DAY NURSERIES :

There are two Play Groups in the area.

TUBERCULOSIS :

The state of the Register at the beginning and end of the year was as follows :—

On Register 1/1/68		On Register 30/12/68	
Pulmonary—		Pulmonary—	
Male	21	Male	19
Female	19	Female	18
Non-Pulmonary—		Non-Pulmonary—	
Male	1	Male	—
Female	3	Female	2
—		—	
44		39	
—		—	

INFECTIOUS DISEASES :

The following table shows the incidence of infectious diseases notified to me during 1968 :

Cases	At all ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and over
Whooping Cough	15	—	11	4	—	—	—
Measles	82	5	55	22	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4	—	—	—	2	2	—
Scarletina	2	—	1	1	—	—	—
Infective Hepatitis	9	—	—	6	2	1	—
Salmonella Dysentery	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	113	6	67	33	4	3	—

IMMUNISATION :

(a) *Smallpox* :

98 persons received primary vaccination against smallpox during the year. This is a slight decrease on the previous year, when 116 persons were vaccinated. 20 persons received revaccination.

(b) *Triple Antigen (Diphtheria, Tetanus and Whooping Cough)* :

138 children were given a primary course of triple antigen during the year. This approximates to the previous year, when 144 children were given a primary dose of this agent. 54 children received booster doses of triple antigen, whilst 234 children were given booster doses of diphtheria and tetanus.

(c) *Poliomyelitis* :

148 persons received the primary course of anti-poliomyelitis vaccine, compared with 147 during the previous year, whilst 102 booster doses of this agent were administered.

(d) *B.C.G.* :

B.C.G. vaccine offers a substantial protection from tuberculosis in individuals, who, by a simple skin test, are shown to have no immediate reaction to the disease, and as a consequence the B.C.G. vaccine is offered to all schoolchildren at 13 years of age who are found to be negative to the skin test.

(e) *Measles* :

During the latter part of the year vaccination against measles was introduced and 12 children were vaccinated against the disease. At the moment only selected age groups are being offered this agent, but it is proposed, when vaccine becomes more plentiful, to progressively extend the programme to include all susceptible children of school age.

WATER :

Mr. J. Round, Engineer and Manager to the West Denbighshire and West Flintshire Water Board at Rhyl, has kindly submitted to me the following report on the water supplied to the area :

Abergele Supply (except Llanddulas) :

The Urban District except Llanddulas is supplied from the works which formerly belonged to Rhyl U.D.C. The direct source of supply is a gathering ground in the Parish of Llanefydd. The gathering ground has an area of 900 acres and an average rainfall of 30.27 inches. The water is stored in two impounding reservoirs—Plas Uchaf (storage capacity 50 million gallons) and Dolwen (48 million gallons). This source is supplemented, except during very wet periods by pumping water from the River Aled into Plas Uchaf Reservoir. In dry weather, an adequate flow in the River Aled is maintained by releasing water from two other impounding reservoirs—Llyn Aled (375 million gallons) and Aled Isaf (270 million gallons), situated on the Denbigh Moors, near Llansannan.

The water is chlorinated at a dosage of about 1 part per million as it leaves Plas Uchaf Reservoir, and is treated at Glascoed Filter Station by pressure filters of the air scour type using sulphate of alumina as a coagulant and sodium carbonate for pH correction. 0.5 parts per million of chlorine are added after filtration for final sterilisation of the water.

The annual rainfall on the Llanefydd gathering ground was 35.15 inches in 1968 compared with the long-term average of 30.27 inches.

*Consumption of water in Abergele (except Llanddulas) during
1968 (estimated)*

	Total Monthly consumption	Average daily consumption
January	13,271,000 gallons	428,000 gallons
February	12,745,000 gallons	440,000 gallons
March	13,924,000 gallons	450,000 gallons
April	14,292,000 gallons	476,000 gallons
May	14,830,000 gallons	479,000 gallons
June	17,374,000 gallons	579,000 gallons
July	18,785,000 gallons	606,000 gallons
August	18,982,000 gallons	612,000 gallons
September	15,861,000 gallons	529,000 gallons
October	14,297,000 gallons	461,000 gallons
November	13,205,000 gallons	440,000 gallons
December	13,137,000 gallons	424,000 gallons
Year's total	180,702,000 gallons	

Bacteriological Test of Treated Water :

Number of samples sent to Public Health Laboratory Conway 69
 Number returned as Class I (Satisfactory) 67

The following chemical analysis was made by Ruddock & Sherratt, Chester, in September, 1968 :

Appearance	clear and colourless
Odour	Nil
Reaction, pH	7.55
Colour (Hazen units)	less than 5
	<i>parts per million</i>
Total solids	170
Nitrogen as free and saline ammonia	0.01
Nitrogen as albuminoid ammonia	0.00
Nitrogen as nitrites	Nil
Nitrogen as nitrates	less than 0.5
Chlorides, as Cl	15
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours at 27° C ...	2.4
Total hardness	98
Temporary hardness	42
Permanent hardness	56
Alkalinity	42
Free Chlorine	—
Potassium, as K	1.2
Anionic synthetic detergents	—

Manganese, as Mn	...	—
Cyanides and thiocyanates	...	—
Poisonous metals	...	Nil
Total residual chlorine	...	less than 0.1
Free available chlorine	...	less than 0.1

Opinion : The condition of this water is satisfactory.

LLANDDULAS SUPPLY :

The area is now supplied on a permanent basis from the Llyn Conwy Regional Water Supply Scheme.

The water is treated at Yspytty Ifan Treatment Works by settling tanks and rapid gravity filters, using sodium carbonate for initial pH correction, aluminium sulphate as a coagulant, and sodium silicate for final pH correction. Chlorine is added after filtration to give a residual of 0.3 p.p.m. for final sterilisation of the water.

The annual rainfall at the Treatment Plant in 1968 was 82.14 inches.

Water supplied to Llanddulas during 1968 :

	Total Monthly consumption	Average daily consumption
January	1,500,000 gallons	*48,500 gallons
February	1,330,000 gallons	*46,000 gallons
March	1,443,000 gallons	*46,500 gallons
April	1,592,000 gallons	53,070 gallons
May	1,622,000 gallons	52,400 gallons
June	1,701,000 gallons	56,700 gallons
July	1,621,000 gallons	52,400 gallons
August	1,809,000 gallons	58,300 gallons
September	1,502,000 gallons	50,070 gallons
October	1,394,000 gallons	45,000 gallons
November	1,350,000 gallons	45,000 gallons
December	1,514,000 gallons	49,000 gallons
Year's total	18,378,000	

* Meter out of action, figures based on previous year.

Bacteriological Tests of Treated Water (Llyn Conwy)

Number of samples sent to Public Health Laboratory, Conway	37
Number returned as Class I (Satisfactory)	37

The following chemical analysis was made by Ruddock & Sherratt, Chester, in September, 1968 :

Appearance	clear and colourless
Odour	Nil
Reaction, pH	6.85
Colour (Hazen Units)	less than 5
	<i>parts per million</i>
Total solids	68
Nitrogen as free and saline ammonia	0.00
Nitrogen as albuminoid ammonia	0.00
Nitrogen as nitrites	Nil
Nitrogen as nitrates	less than 0.5
Chlorides, as Cl	19
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours at 27° C	0.9
Total hardness	16
Temporary hardness	16
Permanent hardness	0
Alkalinity	20
Free Chlorine	Nil
Potassium, as K	0.3
Anionic synthetic detergents	—
Manganese, as Mn	—
Cyanides and thiocyanates	—
Poisonous metals	Nil

Opinion : The chemical condition of this sample is satisfactory.

New Works :

A tenth filter has been installed at Glascoed Filter Station to enable additional water to be treated, and a service reservoir at Glascoed is in the design stage. Further duplication of the mains to Abergele is about to commence by the laying of an 8in. diameter main from Glascoed to St. George.

(Signed) J. ROUND,

Engineer and Manager.

Senior Public Health Inspector's Annual Report for the Year 1968

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1968.

It is with regret that I refer to the passing of Mr. Frank Evans, whose untimely death prevented him from preparing this report.

Mr. Frank Evans served this Authority for 23 years, and it is largely due to his efforts that the relatively high standard of Public Health facilities now prevail, particularly in respect of environmental problems resulting from the large number of caravan sites,

and at the time of his death, Mr. Frank Evans was considered one of the leading authorities in the country in this particular aspect of the work.

May I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee ; to Dr. Peach, Medical Officer of Health, and to fellow Officials and Staff in all departments of the Council for their guidance, support and co-operation during this difficult period.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

D. T. OWEN,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

Table I GENERAL STATISTICS

No. of complaints received and attended to	129
No. of inspections for detection of nuisances	511
No. of re-visits in connection with nuisances	101
No. of nuisances abated	87
No. of nuisances not abated, but work in hand	27
No. of Informal Notices served for the abatement of nuisance	79
No. of Formal Notices served for the abatement of nuisance	1
No. of Visits re Caravan Sites	395
No. of Visits re Tenting Sites	90
No. of Inquiries re Infectious Diseases	34
No. of Visits to Slaughterhouse	508
No. of Visits to premises where food is prepared and sold ...	161
No. of Visits re Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act ...	42
No. of Samples taken of Ice Cream	17
No. of Milk Samples	19
No. of Water Samples	29
No. of Visits re Rodent and Pest Control	62
No. of Inspections of Factories	5
No. of Miscellaneous Visits	356
No. of Interviews	1177
No. of Visits re Shop Acts	17
No. of Visits re Council Houses	251
No. of Visits re Housing Applications	243
No. of Visits re Abandoned Vehicles	31

Table II SANITARY DEFECTS

No. of defective or choked drains	37
No. of defective W.C. Accommodation and Sanitary Fittings	10
No. of defects in surface water drainage	14
No. of damp conditions of houses	12
No. of miscellaneous defects	53

Table III

HOUSING STATISTICS

1.—Inspection of dwellings during the year :	
(a) Total number of dwellings inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) ...	41
(b) Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	9
(c) Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of that referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	32
2.—Number of Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence Informal Action	24
3.—Number of houses in respect of which Formal Notices Public Health Act, 1936, were served	1
4.—Number of houses demolished as a result of Informal Action	2
5.—Number of Demolition Orders made as a result of Formal Action	9
6.—Number of houses closed as a result of Formal Action	Nil
7.—Number of houses closed as a result of Informal Action ...	1
8.—Number of Certificates of Disrepair issued under the Rent Act, 1957 (Form J)	Nil
9.—Number of improvement grants made under the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 :	
(a) Discretionary	2
(b) Standard	4

Housing

Abergele continued to have the highest rate of building of houses and bungalows by private enterprise in North Wales. During the year 280 houses and bungalows were completed compared with 244 in 1967, showing an increase of 36. A high proportion of these dwellings continue to be bungalows which are still in great demand by persons retiring to this area from industrial areas of the North of England.

With regard to Council Housing Estates progress continued on the new extensions to the Min-y-Morfa, Towyn, and Bodtegwel, St. George, estates, and at Rhyd-y-Foel. During the year the five bungalows at Rhyd-y-Foel were completed, 10 of the 17 houses at Min-y-Morfa were completed and at Bodtegwel 3 houses and 4 bungalows were completed—this made a total of 1 four-bedroomed house, 9 three-bedroomed houses, 3 two-bedroomed houses, 2 two-bedroomed bungalows and seven 1-bedroomed bungalows. This makes a total of 22 new units completed during the year.

In October work commenced on the new Cae Maes estate at Llanddulas, which when completed will increase the Council-owned dwellings to near 700.

House Applicants Register.

A new Housing Applicants Register was completed and became effective on May 1st, 1968.

In compiling this Register so as to ensure that all persons who were on the old Register and still required Council accommodation were not omitted, a form was sent to every person. Notices were also placed in the local newspapers. A month later a reminder was sent to all applicants living in Abergele and who had not replied to the first letter.

The new Register contained the names of 277 applicants, 204 were from residents or from persons who were known to have lived in Abergele. The remaining 73 applicants had no residential qualifications. Of the 277, 108 applications were for Elderly Persons Bungalows. In this district there is a great demand for the small bungalows though if given the choice the elderly folk prefer the offer of a bungalow with a coal fire rather than the warm air/gas fired heated bungalows. Further effort must be made to find conveniently sited land for the construction of further dwellings for the elderly.

By the 31st December, 1968, a further 105 applications had been received necessitating the issuing of a supplement to the original Register.

Twenty-four houses, nine flats, and 6 bungalows became available during the year for re-letting. These plus the new properties meant that there were 61 new tenancies.

Despite numerous warnings the Council had to carry out the unpleasant task of evicting 4 tenants for rent arrears. Council houses are generally maintained in a satisfactory condition though there are, of course, the exceptions. The maintenance of gardens is a particular problem. The older Council Housing Estates in Abergele are in need of modernisation and improvement.

Improvement Grants.

Four applications for Standard Grants and two applications for Discretionary Improvement Grants were received and approved. £2,984 in grant money was paid out for improvement work completed during the year. Since 1957, 140 Grants have now been made.

There are still a number of houses in the district the owners of which can receive a grant equal to half the cost of providing modern amenities yet these owners appear very slow in coming forward.

A White Paper, "Old Houses into New Homes," which laid emphasis on the repair and improvement of older houses, was published during the year. It suggests that the maximum amounts payable are to be raised and conditions relaxed.

Housing Act, 1957.

Fortunately this district has no areas of slum property and Clearance Area action is not required. However, from time to time, it becomes necessary to deal with individual properties which are unfit and cannot be made fit at reasonable expense. During the year 9 demolition orders were made.

Two properties on which Demolition Orders had previously been served, had only partially been taken down and action had to be taken under the provision of Section 27 of the Public Health Act, 1961, to clear the site as the cottages were seriously detrimental to the amenities of the neighbourhood.

Holiday Caravan Sites

The number of Site Licences issued by the Council under the provisions of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960, is 74.

During the year two new licences were issued, one for a holiday caravan site of two caravans and the other was for a residential caravan.

In five cases Site Licences were transferred in accordance with the provisions of Section 10 of the Act. The Licence of another site was amended from 10 to 12 caravans and a residential caravan site licence was amended to give extension of temporary permission for a further year.

In 1961 the Council adopted a set of Conditions and Standards which are enforceable upon all holders of site licences. Compliance with these conditions and standards is good, despite the high rate of misuse and vandalism. The amount of vandalism appears to be increasing each year and is a constant cause of concern to Site Proprietors. Camp toilet blocks are in the first line of attack by this irresponsible minority.

1968 was the first season for the voluntary registration of visitors to caravan sites. Visits were made to camps during the season to see how the scheme was operating and at the end of the season all sites were visited to assess the effectiveness of the operation. Methods of registration varied from camp to camp and it became apparent that no single method of registration could be adopted due to each caravan site having different problems in their attempt to secure 100% registration. Only one large camp was found to be making no attempt to register visitors. Problems of registration were discussed with Site Operators and there will be a number of modifications introduced to registration schemes for the 1969 season as a result of the experience gained during 1968.

Two persons were prosecuted in the local Magistrates' Court for the use of unlicensed and unauthorised sites for the accommodation of caravans during 1967. Convictions were obtained in both cases and fines with costs were imposed.

Caravans sited on land "within the curtilage" of dwellings in the Towyn and Kinmel Bay areas continue to cause concern. The caravan legislation gives no help to Local Authorities attempting to prevent the abuse of the exemption in the Act which permits the siting of a caravan in gardens if for the enjoyment of the house.

All complaints received from visitors concerning camps are investigated on the day of receipt. It is often found that the complaints originate from dissatisfied visitors who feel they have been overcharged for inferior accommodation as some visitors expect 4 Star Hotel accommodation for camping prices.

During the peak week-ends there were over 200 touring caravans being parked in lay-bys on the foreshore and other open spaces in trying to find sites for their caravans, which resulted in caravans being parked in lay-bys on the foreshore and other open lands despite the Council having granted 74 Caravan Site Licences. Site Operators fill their sites with static caravans for economical reasons, resulting in the lack of facilities for the touring caravan. The current trend is for touring caravans and other touring units, such as motorised caravans, to increase in number, replacing the tent.

Tented Camping Sites

During the peak weeks of the holiday season and at Bank Holiday week-ends the usual sites have been in use by persons camping in tents. However, the numbers of tents has been less than during previous seasons, whilst as already stated, the number of touring caravans has increased.

The problem of individual tenters pitching their tents on open land, such as foreshore land at Pensarn and Llanddulas, the "Common" at Rhyd-y-Foel, and on land at Kinmel Bay has continued to give cause for concern. The majority of these campers are young persons. They include an undesirable element who have no respect for Public Health standards and other persons' property. The largest gathering of these persons was on land at both sides of St. Asaph Avenue North, Kinmel Bay, at Easter week-end. Police co-operation has now been secured and it is hoped that there will be no recurrence of this nuisance.

The inadequacy of existing powers to control tented camping continues. Following previous representations by Local Authority Associations the Ministry of Housing and Local Government issued, in April, a draft of revised Model Bye-laws. The proposed amendments appear to be inadequate and would fail to give the control over tenting sites that is required and which is essential from both Public Health and Planning aspects.

In July a further meeting was held between representatives of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and from Local Council Associations. There was general agreement that the real need is for legislation similar to Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960. However, owing to pressure on Parliamentary time it would appear that as far as the Ministry is concerned legislation is not forthcoming in the immediate future. The revised Model bye-laws, when published, will have to provide an interim measure of control over tented camping sites.

Drainage and Sewerage

Drainage and Sewerage has always been one of the major problems of this area. Low density population and flat low-lying terrain result in the sewerage of the area being an excessive and difficult project. The Council are now making swift progress towards providing adequate sewerage facilities throughout the district, despite the high capital cost. The extension of the Llanddulas Sewerage Scheme, so as to serve the village of Rhyd-y-Foel, is nearing completion despite the difficulty of having to cut through rock so as to lay the sewer through parts of the village. Connections will be made to individual houses and it is hoped that owners will take advantage of improvements grants that are available to provide bathroom and other modern amenities.

In the Kinnel Bay area the Coast Protection Scheme has been completed and construction work on the surface water main drainage Ffynnon-y-Ddol improvement scheme will shortly commence. This is the construction of a channel stretching from Pensarn through Towyn and Kinnel Bay to discharge into the River Clwyd. This land drainage scheme will enable the extension of foul sewerage facilities to remaining parts of Towyn and to Kinnel Bay, south of the railway line. So as to prevent further delays it is hoped that work will commence on laying sewers to parts of the area at the same time as the Ffynnon-y-Ddol is being constructed.

St. George village is in need of a sewerage scheme.

Public Conveniences

Complaints are being received regarding the standard of our Public Conveniences. They are often compared with more modern facilities elsewhere in North Wales, but it must be remembered that Abргеle's toilets were built long before many of the more modern conveniences found in North Wales.

There are eight public conveniences in the district, all of which lack washing facilities and are prone to vandalism. The toilets are too small to be provided with permanent attendants, which has resulted in an increase in misuse and wanton damage.

Consideration will have to be given to the replacement of existing toilets with more modern vandal proof facilities. In view of the costs involved it is recommended that a phased programme of renewal be adopted without delay.

Llanddulas still lacks a public convenience and it is essential in view of the ever-increasing popularity of that beach, that this amenity should be placed on or as near as possible to the beach. However, in view of drainage difficulties it may be advisable to consider a Mobile Public Convenience.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963

Under the provisions of this Act a report must be made annually to the Ministry of Labour giving details of premises registered, persons employed, and premises inspected.

The Annual Report for 1968 is in the following form :

TABLE A. Registration and General Inspections.

Class of Premises	No of Premises Registered during 1968.	Total No. of Premises Registered at end of Year	No. of Premises receiving a General Inspection during the Year.
Offices	—	40	2
Retail Shops	4	79	17
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses ...	2	5	1
Catering Establishments & Canteens	—	15	4
Fuel Storage Depots	—	2	—
Totals	6	141	24

TABLE B

Number of Visits of all kinds to registered premises 42

TABLE C

*Analysis by Workplace of Persons Employed in Registered
Premises at the end of Year*

Class of Workplace	No. of Persons Employed
Offices	207
Retail Shops	256
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	49
Catering Establishments open to the Public ...	176
Canteens	1
Fuel Storage Depots	2
Total	691
Total Males ...	297
Total Females .	394

During the course of General Inspections the following defects were found :

Cleanliness	3
Overcrowding	—
Inadequate Heating	3
No Thermometer	12
Inadequate Ventilation	—
Inadequate Lighting	—
Sanitary Conveniences	11
Washing Facilities	9
Drinking Water	1
Inadequate accommodation for clothing	1
Seating accommodation	—
Staircases, floors and trapdoor	6
Dangerous machinery	2
Insufficient first aid requisites	12
Abstract not displayed	17
	—
Total	77
	—

As a result 17 Warning Letters were sent and on a further 3 occasions Verbal Warnings were given.

During 1968 six more premises were registered, but with one premises ceasing, there was a net increase of five, making a total of 141 registered premises at the end of the year. There was a net increase of 35 persons employed in these premises making a total of 691.

A requirement of this Act is that all accidents occurring on registered premises, whether fatal or where the employee is disabled for more than three days from doing his usual work, must be notified to the Local Authority. During 1968 we received notification of one accident. The accident occurred to a male employee at a local warehouse and was of a serious nature. The employee has now fully recovered.

I am not satisfied that this one accident covers all accidents that have occurred, as although no instances were found of other accidents happening, I feel that more accidents must have occurred than are reported.

Shops Act, 1950

This Act controls the hours of opening of shops which varies according to the items sold.

At holiday resorts facilities are available for Councils to make Orders relating to Sunday trading and the weekly half-holiday.

The Council took advantage of these facilities and made the following Orders :

1. Abergele (Suspension of Weekly Half Holiday) Order 1968 for 18 weeks.
2. Abergele Sunday Trading Order No. (1) 1968.

In pursuance of Section 51 exempted for 18 Sundays, the Sunday closing provisions of the Act in respect of the retail sale of Fried Fish and Chips.

3. Abergele Sunday Trading (Wards) Order No. (2) 1968.

In pursuance of Section 51 exempted for 18 Sundays the Sunday Closing provisions of the Act in respect of the retail shops in the Towyn, Kimmel Bay, Pensarn, Llanddulas and St. George Wards of the Urban District for the sale of :

- (a) Any article required for the purpose of bathing or fishing.
- (b) Photographic requisites.
- (c) Toys, souvenirs and fancy goods.
- (d) Books, stationery, photographs, reproductions and post-cards.
- (e) Any article of food with the exception of Fried Fish and Chips.

Food Inspection and Food Hygiene

Meat Inspection.

The routine inspection of all animals slaughtered for human consumption at the local slaughterhouse in Market Street, Abergele, was again given priority. By working outside normal office hours 100% meat inspection was maintained throughout the year.

Ten thousand five hundred and sixty-seven animals were examined. This is a slight decrease from the previous year, but the 1967 figure had been inflated due to the foot and mouth disease outbreak when on occasions animals were slaughtered for butchers in Lancashire.

As usual the quality of animals slaughtered was good, though during the foot and mouth outbreak which continued into 1968, some poorer quality carcasses caused some concern and resulted in one beast carcass and 16 sheep carcasses being condemned.

The slaughterhouse in Market Street is the only licensed slaughterhouse in the district.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	646	—	17	8,365	1,539	—
Number inspected	646	—	17	8,365	1,539	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci—						
Whole carcases condemned	1	—	—	16	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	50	—	—	69	24	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	8%	—	—	1%	1.6%	—
Tuberculosis only—						
Whole carcase condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	7	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	0.5%	—
Cysticercosis—						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Details of Meat Condemned at the Slaughter-house

BEEF :

(a) 1 complete carcase	366 lbs.
(b) Part Carcase and Organs :	
50 Oxen — Non-Tubercular Diseases	494 lbs.

PORK :

(a) Complete carcasses : Nil.	
(b) Part-Carcase and Organs :	
7 parts — Localised Tuberculosis	72 lbs.
24 parts — Other diseases	75 lbs.

VEAL : Nil.

MUTTON and LAMB :

16 Complete Sheep Carcasses	371 lbs.
69 Part Carcase	138 lbs.
(Non-Tubercular Disease)	

TOTAL WEIGHTS CONDEMNED 13 cwts, 2 qr. 4 lbs.

Water Supply

The district, except for Llanddulas and Rhyd-y-Foel, receive water from West Denbighshire and West Flintshire supply. The Llanddulas and Rhyd-y-Foel area are supplied from the Llyn Conwy Regional Water Supply Scheme.

Routine sampling of the water supplies was continued throughout the year. Twenty-nine samples were submitted for bacteriological examination. The reports received on all these samples were Class 1—Excellent.

Milk Samples

Nineteen samples of milk were collected and submitted for statutory and other tests. All samples were of raw (untreated) milk collected from vending machines during the summer. Three samples were unsatisfactory.

Ice Cream

There is one Ice Cream factory in the district and five other premises have soft ice cream machines.

Seventeen samples of ice cream were collected. Only unwrapped and soft ice cream was sampled so as not to duplicate sampling done elsewhere. Two of the samples were found to be unsatisfactory. Both were from soft ice cream machines. Advice was given with particular reference to the process of cleansing the equipment.

Food Inspection

All retailers, wholesalers and caterers are encouraged to request for any food which they are doubtful about to be inspected.

Food found to be unfit is voluntarily surrendered and a certificate issued by the Public Health Inspector which often enables the retailer to gain credit or replacement for the unsound food.

The following is a list of food condemned :

Other Foods Condemned

Canned Fish	41 lbs.
Canned Fruit	162 lbs.
Canned Vegetables	644 lbs.
Canned Milk	11 lbs.
Canned Meat	90 lbs.
Canned Soup	111 lbs.
Canned Puddings	285 lbs.
Poultry	375 lbs.
Bacon	60 lbs.
Imported Lamb	18 lbs.

TOTAL WEIGHT CONDEMNED 16 cwts. 0 qrs. 5 lbs.

During 1968 eight complaints were received from members of the public concerning unsound food. Four related to mouldy food and four to foreign matter in food. The mould affected foods were a loaf, meat pie, chocolate and cake. Two cases of foreign matter were found in milk, one canned meat pie contained a piece of wire, and a beef pie was found to contain a small plastic toy. Each complaint was fully investigated. Representatives of the manufacturers concerned were interviewed and everything possible was done to try to prevent a recurrence. On two occasions, manufacturers' representatives travelled from London by air for the sole purpose of carrying out their own investigations into the complaints, thus showing the concern that some manufacturers feel on receipt of a complaint.

The selling of mouldy food is often due to retail staff and management failing to understand the importance of stock rotation, especially of perishable foods. Every effort is made to encourage shopkeepers and shop managers to introduce their own coding systems, especially in connection with wrapped meat pies, sausages, etc., so that they can tell immediately how long one particular item has been on sale.

Rodent and Pest Control

The Council employ jointly with Aled and St. Asaph Councils a Rodent Operator, who is employed for the treatment of rodents and pests in the area.

Considering the nature of the area, with large-scale camping, agricultural land and unsatisfactory drainage the area is relatively free of rodents, though during November the number of complaints received regarding rats gave some cause for temporary concern. Special attention was given to the areas affected, especially building sites, and the number of complaints was soon reduced. It is essential, however that as soon as a rat is seen or is suspected, the Health Department should be notified so that investigations and treatment may be commenced.

Requests are also received for assistance in dealing with insect pests including bed-bugs, ants, fleas, cockroaches, wasps and with pigeons and moles.

Whilst the catching of pigeons, which were breeding on buildings in Market Street, was successful, a similar exercise in Pensarn was unsuccessful. The problem of pigeons on several of the large buildings in Marine Road Pensarn, is causing a nuisance, and due to the height of the buildings a successful solution has not yet been found.

Several complaints of insects in caravans were received and seven of these were found to be due to bed-bugs. It was puzzling to find bug-infested caravans in 1968, especially as it has not occurred to this extent in previous years.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Collection :

The aim of the Department is to give and maintain a weekly, back door to back door service for the collection of refuse. This should be the aim of all authorities, though it is surprising that many still fail to do so.

During the summer months the service is stretched to beyond its limits, especially following Bank Holidays, or when there is sickness or vehicle breakdowns. Maintenance of the weekly collection to all parts of the district becomes impossible.

The problem of the seasonal increase in refuse is particularly acute in this area, due to the high proportional increase of summer visitors to residents and, even more important, the fact that virtually all holiday accommodation is of the self-catering nature. A family in a holiday caravan produce more refuse per week than does the average domestic house.

The service during 1968 operated two Dennis Paxit II, 18/24 cu. yd. vehicles, and a Karrier Bantom. The Paxit vehicles were purchased in 1961 and 1962 respectively. The staff consisted of three drivers and twelve loaders. In December a Shelvoke & Drewry 35 cu. yd. Pakamatic was brought into operation.

In October, Mr. C. Parker commenced his duties as Refuse Supervisory Foreman. Owing to the rapid growth of housing estates in the area, it was considered that the daily rounds were unbalanced, and Mr. Parker's first task was to carry out a complete re-survey of the collection rounds.

Disposal :

Disposal of refuse continued at the foreshore site near Beach House, Llanddulas. In January and March there were two serious tip fires, which proved costly.

The extensive preparation work required at the new disposal site at Gofer, Towyn, will commence in the near future. Despite the availability of this land, disposal of refuse will remain a problem. The nature of refuse is changing yearly. Besides the amount of refuse produced per head of the population increasing yearly, so too does the volume per hundredweight increase. The result is that refuse is no longer suitable for tipping in its crude state. The condition is aggravated by the fact that it is impossible to obtain adequate suitable covering material. Tips become more prone to nuisances from rodents, seagulls, flies, fires, paper and smells. To-day's refuse should be pre-treated by some method such as pulverisation or incineration before being tipped.

Factories

The statutory return made in accordance with the provisions of the Factories Act 1961, is included at the end of this report.

Atmospheric Pollution

Close contact is maintained with the H.M. Alkali Inspector regarding an industrial undertaking in the area, part of which is controlled by the Alkali Acts. Following complaints of a severe smoke emission from this undertaking, arrangements were made for the Inspector to visit the premises.

Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964

One new application was received for registration under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964. There are now three Dealers registered.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963

There are two licensed establishments with total accommodation for thirteen dogs.

Pet Animals Act 1951

One Shop premises is licensed under the provisions of this Act for the keeping and sale of Pet Animals.

Civic Amenities Act 1967

The Department has been involved in the new measures introduced by this legislation for the removal of abandoned motor vehicles. A duty is placed on the Council to remove any vehicle which appears to have been abandoned. During the year thirty such cases were investigated.

Factories Act, 1961

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the Year 1968 for the Urban District of Abergele in the County of Denbigh

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1.—*Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)*

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of		(31)
			Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	11	8	—	—	
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	24	5	—	—	
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	Nil	—	—	—	
Total	35	5	—	—	

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.
(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases.")

Number of cases in which defects were found					
Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	Nil	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	Nil	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient	Nil	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	Nil	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	Nil	—	—	—	—
	Nil	—	—	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT
OUTWORK (Sections 133 and 134)
Four persons were on the Register of Outworkers.

